

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 291515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5798

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGU

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, SP

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REACTION TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING SATURDAY'S EXECUTION IN SPAIN OF FIVE TERRORISTS, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON SEPTEMBER 28 DECIDED TO CALL HOME ITS AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, KNUT BERNSTROM, FOR CONSULTATIONS. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON AT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS WHICH BEGAN THIS WEEKEND. ANDERSSON POINTEDLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT BERGSTROM'S RECALL IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE AND THAT HE WILL EVENTUALLY BE SENT BACK TO MADRID WITH

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NEW INSTRUCTIONS.

2. SPEAKING BEFORE THE PARTY CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 27, PRIME MINISTER PALME MADE AN EXTREMELY SHARP DENUNCIATION OF THE SPANISH REGIME. THE PRIME MINISTER TERMED THE SPANISH LEADERS "SATANIC MURDERERS" AND SAID THAT SPANISH SITUATION CONSTITUTED AN "ABSCESS" ON EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. HE ADDED: "IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF DEMOCRATIC EUROPE HAS ENOUGH SELF-ESTEEM TO JOIN FORCES AND GET RID OF THIS MISERABLE MEMORARY OF A DISMAL PAST. IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO U.S. BASES IN SPAIN, PALME SAID THAT "IT IS STRANGE THAT DEMOCRACY CAN BE DEFENDED BY BUYING MILITARY BASES FROM THE FASCISTS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE DECISION OF THE GOS TO CALL ITS AMBASSADOR TO MADRID HOME FOR CONSULTATION WAS INEVITABLE IN VIEW OF THE STRONG DOMESTIC REACTION TO THE SPANISH EXECUTIONS, THE EXAMPLE SET BY OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND THE FACT THAT THE EVENTS OCCURRED DURING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS, WHERE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES WOULD EXPECT STRONG GOVERNMENT ACTION.

4. THE REMARKABLE ASPECT OF THE DECISION SUNDAY WAS THAT IT CAME SO MUCH LATER THAN THE SIMILAR ACTIONS TAKEN BY NORWAY, THE FRG, THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, THE UK AND OTHERS. THE DELAY, HOWEVER, ENABLED THE GOS TO SHOW ITS GESTURE WAS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROTEST, NOT INDICATING A SWEDISH DESIRE TO REMAIN WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR AT MADRID. THE GOS, ANTICIPATING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GENERAL FRANCO FROM THE SCENE, HAS SHOWN ITS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH SPAIN, BOTH AT OFFICIAL LEVELS AND WITH SUCH ZZGRAY AREA" SPANISH DISSIDENTS AS THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS.

5. TO POINT THIS UP, MFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LEIFLAND CALLED ME SUNDAY TO INFORM ME OF THE SWEDISH ACTION AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION, BERGSTROM WOULD BE RETURNING TO MADRID. PRIOR TO THE WCECUTIONS, AS ASTROM TOLD DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL RECENTLY, THE GOS CONTEMPLATED ESCALATING EXCHANGES WITH THE SPANISH MFA TO THE SECRETARY GENRAL LEVEL.

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6. GOS SPOKESMEN HAVE CITED THE RECALL OF THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR FROM ATHENS IN 1967 AS A MISTAKE, IN CONTRAST WITH THE "GOOD WORK" DONE BY AMBASSADOR EDELSTAM IN CHILE UNTIL THE JUNTA EXPELLED HIM.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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